

REMARKS:

The Examiner's indication of allowability with respect to claims 18-28 is gratefully acknowledged. The remaining claims have been amended with this response so that they are directed to the subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner.

Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-5, 13-17 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 2002/0013239 (Sahbari) is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully notes that this rejection has been rendered moot by the amendments to the claims included with this response. It is thus respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome.

Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-6, 13-17 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. 2002/0013239 (Sahbari) in view of U.S. 2004/0058626 (Filipozzi et al.) is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully notes that this rejection has been rendered moot by the amendments to the claims included with this response. It is thus respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome.

Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of claims 8-9 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. 2002/0013239 (Sahbari) in view of U.S. 2004/0058626 (Filipozzi et al.), and further in view of U.S. 6,423,148 (Aoki), is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully notes that this rejection has been rendered moot by the amendments to the claims included with this response. It is thus respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome.

Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of claims 7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. 2002/0013239 (Sahbari) in view of U.S. 2004/0058626 (Filipozzi et al.), and further in view of U.S. 6,641,678 (DeYoung), is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully notes that this rejection has been rendered moot by the amendments to the claims included with this response. It is thus respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome.

Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of claims 7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. 2002/0013239 (Sahbari) in view of U.S. 2004/0058626 (Filipozzi et al.), and further in view of U.S. 6,440,856 (Bessho et al.), is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully notes that this rejection has been rendered moot by the amendments to the claims included with this response. It is thus respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome.

It is believed that no fees are due with this response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due with this response, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2726.

Respectfully submitted,

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